

The DoD VoEd community unites at Worldwide

The DoD Worldwide Education Symposium 2006 (WW06) delivered something for everyone. Almost 1,800 educators gathered in Orlando, Fla. for WW06, offering attendees professional development in the form of two general sessions, 68 concurrent sessions, 150 exhibi-

everyone, and I know you will return home with many strategies. No one can whistle an orchestra; it takes us all. Use this as a springboard for collaboration.”

The theme of the conference, “Educating America’s Service Members Any Place, Any Time,” was emphasized in many speakers’ comments. Participating in the Senior Officer panel, Vice Adm. Robert J. Papp, Jr., Chief of Staff, U.S. Coast Guard, emphasized the need for innovative delivery of coursework.

“More and more, our personnel are seeking innovative ways to complete their college degrees through distance courses, on line or asynchronously via CD-Rom or PDA. And from my understanding, the iPod option is being explored.” He called the symposium “an investment in our personnel—a wise investment which ensures the Coast Guard is ready today and prepared for tomorrow.”

Vice Adm. John C.

Harvey, Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, echoed the need for education, calling the Navy’s “commitment to education a strategic imperative.”

Maj. Gen. Rhett A. Hernandez, Commander, Human Resources Command, U.S. Army, continued the theme stating, “Soldiers want Distance Learning relevant and now. There is no benefit more valuable to

the well-being, and future of our Soldiers than education, and we must be good stewards of it.”

Elliott Masie, keynote speaker and futurist, blended humor and wonderful storytelling as he discussed “Learning in a Flatter World.” The group learned the term VUCA—which speaks to the volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity of not only our world, but also the world of knowledge. Further discussion of his views can be found at <http://telecollege.dcccd.edu/ww06/Masie.mp3>.

Wednesday’s keynote speaker, John Bear, provided real life profiles of those learning by alterna-

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Leslye A. Arsht, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community, and Family Policy, addresses the audience.

tors, and over a dozen roundtable discussions.

As stated in her welcome, Leslye A. Arsht, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community, and Family Policy, asserted, “We have come to work, study, and learn. It is important to be at the top of your form professionally. This conference offers something for



Author and futurist, Elliott Masie, was a keynote speaker at Worldwide.

Worldwide Education Symposium

Continued from page 1

tive delivery methods. Author of over 30 books, Bear is well known for his writings about diploma mills and scam schools.

As closing keynote speaker, retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant, and 2006 Ohio Teacher of the Year, Eric Combs earned high praise for his energetic and compelling message. He reminded us of the importance of passion for our life's work.

Many **special events** contributed to WW06 team building and networking opportunities such as:

1) **Monday night's reception** in the Exhibit Hall. Besides the USO Liberty Belles, Uncle Sam and other historical characters, four "real characters" in red coats, Tuskegee Airmen Chapter members, truly exemplified the theme of the evening "Remembering the Past and Forging the Future." Retired Lt. Col. Hiram E. Mann, Air Force, a bomber pilot who graduated with Class 44-F, in June 1944, shared memories of his plane, a P-51D Mustang, named "Boss Lady" after his wife. He also donated a T-shirt with his picture, plane, and autograph for the **WW06 Silent Auction**, that raised \$4,500 for the Tuskegee Airman Scholarship Fund to benefit future young aviators.

2) Almost 200 people rose early on Wednesday to enjoy the **WW06 Fun Run/Walk** on the hotel's beautiful golf course. First to cross the finish line was Kyle Baines, son of Air Force Reserve member Patricia Baines. Coming in first for Army was Chris Klein; Coast Guard - Chris Brunclik; Navy - William Dewes; Other Government - John Gantz; Marine Corps - Scott Cavanagh; Industry - Doug Prybylowski; and leading the

Schools' team was Alex Haskins, son of Bill Haskins at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

3) The high-energy finale for WW06 included a presentation of the **Team Spirit Award** at the House of Blues on Thursday night. The U.S. Army won the traveling trophy this first year of the competition!

Betty Keese, WW06 Chairperson, reports that the Symposium far exceeded expectations. "We did well in selecting ways to build a sense of community — something that is hard to do with more than 1,800 attendees."

To provide feedback on your experiences at WW06, visit the Symposium Web site at <http://www.ww06.com> and complete an attendee, speaker, or exhibitor survey. E-mail the survey to training@voled.doded.mil or fax it to (850) 452-1162.

(From the top: Col. Thomas D. Klinkar and John Bear during the general session panel; Elliott Masie, keynote speaker, interviews an audience member; DANTES Director Jeffrey P. Cropsey (center) with Susan C. Aldridge, UMUC, and James R. Anderson, CTC; Thelma White, President, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.)



Worldwide Education Symposium

Quotes from WW06

"Many people are having to blend learning for their mission, whatever that mission might be, and learning for their future."

– Elliott Masie, internationally recognized futurist, researcher and humorist on technology and business

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"This was my first visit to Worldwide, and it was nothing but first class all the way. DANTES really did a fantastic job and I look forward to the next one in three years."

– Glenn D. Smith, Team Chief
Base Training/Education Services, Misawa AB, Japan

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"I was especially impressed with the keynote speaker...Elliott Masie and opening remarks about VUCA. Also, it was especially good to have the Senior Officer Panel members in attendance as we need their advocacy more than ever for voluntary education."

– Jeff H. Allen, Chief, Education and Training
HQ PACAF/A1FE

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"It's a multi, multi-million dollar, in fact, we think, a billion-dollar industry. So, how do we prevent it? We are never going to stop the schools; that's my sad conclusion. So, we need to inform the public so they know, so the degree buyers know what they are doing."

– John Bear, author, talking about diploma mills

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"I left the symposium feeling very empowered in planning for the future, to include electronic testing, distance learning, ensuring quality control of programs, general growing trends of students and college, and so much more. I have made a recommendation for continued support for the symposiums in the years to come."

– Vicki Braun, Ph.D.
Director, MCCA Lifelong Learning
MCB Butler, Okinawa, Japan



(From the top: Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Rodney J. McKinley; Eric Combs, a Troops to Teachers participant, was the closing speaker; Opening of the Exhibit Hall; Jonell Calloway, center, Director of Education, Army Reserve, accepts the Team Spirit Award from the 'Blues Brothers.')

Guidance book online

The DANTES Counselor Support Programs Manager, Code 10J, has updated the Guidance Materials Handbook, and it is now on the DANTES Web site for all education personnel to access.

The handbook gives detailed information about all the guidance materials/interest inventories that DANTES offers to military education centers free. It is an excellent resource to find out more about guidance materials and how to order them.

Go to the DANTES Web site, <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>; click on Counselor Support Programs on the left side of the screen; move your mouse to Guidance Materials, and you will see the handbook listed on the drop-down menu.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this handbook, contact counseling@voled.doded.mil.

Student award program

The National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services (NAIMES) announces the annual NAIMES Student Spotlight Award program. This program offers an opportunity for interested active duty military students to demonstrate their scholarly competency and skills learned while participating in the Voluntary Education program.

The award recognizes a student, undergraduate or graduate, who demonstrates excellent academic achievement in pursuit of their civilian postsecondary education. Any student, regardless of branch, rank, university affiliation, is eligible to submit an application and project to compete for the \$1,200 award.

The deadline for receipt of projects, including application, resume and letters of reference is October 10. Final selection will be made during the NAIMES General Membership meeting held in early December. The Student Spotlight Award winner will be notified no later than December 15.

For an application and more information, call (907) 450-8144 or visit <http://www.alaska.edu/student-services/military/index.xml>.

New, redesigned VA GI Bill Web site – easier to use

The Department of Veterans Affairs has redesigned the GI Bill Web site, <http://www.gibill.va.gov>, to make it easier to use. Advantages to using the online site are open Internet access to program information and the electronic application form for education benefits that may be completed and submitted online.

The Web site includes information on:

- New program reimbursing fees for National Testing
- New education benefit for Activated Reservists (REAP/Chapter 1607)
- Information for returning Service members and veterans
- Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty
- Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve

Much of the general information people want, such as current benefit rates and general program eligibility

requirements, is posted on the Web site. For more specific questions, people may select a specific program and “click here to view All Questions and Answers” section. Each program has a link to the respective VA Pamphlet and Fact sheets. Also, there is a new education benefits Web page available in Spanish that can be accessed by clicking on the link at the bottom of the GI Bill home page.

In addition to accessing VA programs online, people may contact the VA via the VA toll-free number 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). For regional offices contact information, click on <http://www.gibill.va.gov/Contact/contact.htm>.

Last minute DSST price increase

Thomson Prometric just notified us that the commercial price for the DSST exam, whether it's paper-based or Internet-based, is now \$70. The effective date is 1 October 2006. Anyone taking a DSST exam on an unfunded basis will be subject to this fee.

FY07 testing publications

In September, we mailed the FY07 edition of the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH)* and *FY07 Calendar of National Testing Programs* in CD-ROM format to all DANTES Test Centers. TCOs, ATCOs and test examiners with Exams Management Information System (EMIS) accounts can access these two references online.

Mandatory use of Web-DATIP

All stocking DANTES Test Centers, except for active duty Air Force, are required to electronically submit their fourth quarter DANTES Inventory Reports through the Web-based DANTES Automated Test Inventory Program (DATIP). Reports can be submitted between 27 September and 5 October 2006. There is also a late reporting period from 6 – 10 October. You cannot submit an electronic inventory report after 10 October.

We electronically forward inventory reports received by 5 October to the testing agencies on 6 October

and those late ones received on 10 October to the testing agencies on 11 October. Thomson Prometric electronically reconciles their inventory reports within five days of receipt of the initial and late reports. This allows them to contact DANTES TCOs to resolve discrepancies within a much shorter period of time.

Access to the Web-DATIP application is through your EMIS account (username and password). If you haven't established an EMIS account, visit the DANTES Web page at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil> and click on Examination Programs. From the drop down listing, select EMIS and following the directions for establishing a username and password.

ASE deadline approaches

The Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) deadline is approaching. Please download all registration forms from the DANTES Web site:

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/certification/ase.htm.

The *ASE/ACT Test Control Officer Form* and the *ASE Test Registration Forms* for each military candidate are required and must be submitted to ASE/ACT by 22 September 06. Send inquiries to certprog@voled.doded.mil.

Want the DIB via e-mail?

If you would like the DANTES Information Bulletin (DIB) e-mailed to you every month, e-mail Publications at pubs@voled.doded.mil.

The DIB is also available on the front of the DANTES Web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

Testing Calendar

September 2006

16–20	Praxis *
30	LSAT

October 2006

6	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
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November 2006

6-11	GRE Subject *
9, 14, 16	ASE (CONUS) **
14-16	ASE (Overseas) **
18-22	Praxis *

December 2006

1	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
2	LSAT
4-9	GRE Subject

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders six weeks before the test date. CONUS test centers send orders four weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

**Deadline for ordering ASE exams is 22 September.

Reminder: The SAT Program shuts down scoring in late summer. Do not schedule SAT testing July - September. See the DEPH Chapter 3.

Online calendar:

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/06-07cal.pdf

Sharing the benefit

by MGySgt James O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



MGySgt O'Keefe

In a bold response to Soldiers' past pleas asking for the option to transfer GI Bill benefits to their spouses, the Army has announced a pilot program that will allow 'select' reenlisting Soldiers to transfer up to 18 months of their 36-month MGIB entitlement. *Army Times* staff writer, Jim Tice, recently detailed this pilot program. Here are excerpts from his article, Copyright © 2006, *Army Times*, Springfield, Va.:

"The pilot program that took effect July 21 applies only to Regular

occupational specialties in the Inventory, Location, Broken Service and Bonus Extension and Retraining (BEAR) SRB programs... eligibility is restricted to Zone B and Zone C soldiers with six through 14 years of service.

Federal law does not authorize education benefit transfers for Soldiers with fewer than six years of service who are classified as Zone A. Soldiers who participate in the transfer program will receive slightly reduced retention bonuses...

Army retention is running well ahead of schedule for the current fiscal year, so the new program is not a response to any pressing re-

The pilot program allows eligible soldiers to transfer up to 18 months, or \$18,612, to their spouse. The benefit will be prorated for part-time enrollment.

Soldiers who enrolled in the Army College Fund at the time of enlistment, or who have since participated in the \$600 Montgomery GI Bill Additional Opportunity program, can transfer those extra benefits to their spouse, too...

"We have restricted eligibility during the pilot program to spouses of active duty enlisted soldiers, but are exploring the possibility of opening this up to all the Components [Regular Army, National Guard and Army Reserve], to officers, and for transfer to dependent children, as well as spouses," Conway said. "We also have submitted a request to Congress to remove the critical skills requirement in the law, so that any Soldier (with six or more years of service) who is reenlisting would qualify for the transfer program."

If lawmakers approve that request, the Army could offer the transfer option to Soldiers who reenlist under the Deployed SRB program. This program is not MOS-specific and therefore does not meet the "critical military skill" requirement of the current law.

Soldiers with questions about the GI Bill transfer program should contact their career counselor.

For the full *Army Times* article, "GI Bill handoff," visit:

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/advisors/sea/index.htm.

For the U.S. Army news release, visit: http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=9319.

Thank you for supporting our Service members!

"...we recruit Soldiers, but retain families."

– Maj. Gen. Sean Byrne,

Director of Army Military Personnel Management

Army enlisted Soldiers, but Pentagon officials are exploring ways to expand the retention incentive to other groups, including reservists and officers.

Using authority granted by Congress four years ago, the Army is allowing Soldiers with six or more years of active service to transfer up to 18 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits — now worth \$18,612 — to their spouses in return for accepting a slightly reduced Selective Reenlistment Bonus. The law authorizing the transfer requires the Soldier to hold a "critical military skill" and to re-enlist for four, five or six years.

The Army defines a critical skill as one of the more than 120 military

enlistment troubles, according to Maj. Gerald Conway, chief of the enlisted professional development branch in the Office of the G-1 at the Pentagon.

"However, it does support Army Family Action Plan surveys which have consistently identified GI Bill transferability as a top priority for families," he said.

Nine out of 10 soldiers who join the active Army enroll in the Montgomery GI Bill when they enlist, Conway said. Nearly 90 percent of soldiers enrolled in the GI Bill use a portion of their benefits, but usually not all 36 months' worth. "On average, they only use 12-14 months of the entitlement," Conway said.

Podcasts from Worldwide 06

“Any place, any time”

Would you like to listen to short audio recordings of some of the WW06 Symposium speakers and attendees? Podcasts (audio clips) were recorded at the Symposium so that anyone, whether or not they attended the DOD Worldwide gathering, may listen to topics discussed at the Symposium either on their computer or their portable MP3 player, iPod, or cell phone, really at any place and any time!

There are three ways to locate the podcasts:

1) Access the podcasts at: <http://www.dantes.doded.mil> under **Hot News**.

a) Click on **PODCASTS**, then

click on **Here** for Worldwide Education Symposium Podcasts.

b) This will take you to the Podcast Web page which is hosted on the Dallas TeleCollege server.

c) On the WW06 Official Podcasts page, scroll down until you see the speaker photos, then either click on the **MP3** audio files to hear the recording or the **Transcript** for a printed copy of the discussions (or click on both if you'd like the full audio/video experience!)

2) You can also access the podcasts at <http://www.ww06.com>. Click on the blinking red “WW06 Podcast” menu selection on the left of the

screen and then click on the Dallas Telecollege link (<http://telecollege.dcccd.edu/ww06.htm>) Once you've arrived at Dallas Telecollege, simply follow the directions at b) and c) above.

3) Finally, you can access the podcasts at www.apple.com/itunes If you have downloaded the iTunes software on your personal computer, click on “Podcasts”, then “Government”, then “National.” On the National page, scroll down to “DoD Worldwide Education Symposium.” Pick one or more interviews by clicking “subscribe.” You can listen on your computer, or if you have an iPod you can download the file. The photos of the speaker will appear on your iPod after downloading when you click on the particular interview you want to listen to.

‘Proud to Serve Again’ video and Laura Bush PSA now available on the Web

Troops to Teachers’ award-winning video, Proud to Serve Again, along with a public service announcement (PSA) featuring First Lady Laura Bush, is now available on the Troops to Teachers Web site.

The 10-minute video won the 2005 Thoth Award from the Public Relations Society of America for its quality. It features several Troops to Teachers discussing the transition from the military to the classroom and the rewards and benefits of being a public school teacher.

The PSA is a call by the First Lady to the military to “serve their country again”, this time as teachers.

Troops to Teachers (<http://www.ProudtoServeAgain.com>) is a Department of Defense/Department of Education program helping eligible military personnel begin second careers as public school teachers. TTT provides referral

assistance, placement services, and – for those electing to teach in high-need school districts – financial stipends and bonuses. Troops to Teachers is managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

The links are located at:

- 10-minute video (high-speed connection): http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/multimedia/ttt/ProudToServeAgain.wmv

- 10-minute video (dial-up connection): http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/multimedia/ttt/ProudToServeAgain_56k.wmv

- Laura Bush PSA (high-speed): http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/multimedia/ttt/IBushPSA.mov

- Laura Bush PSA (dial-up): http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/multimedia/



[ttt/IBushPSA_56k.mov](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/troopstoteachers/index.asp)

- Troops to Teachers main page (go to “TTT informational videos” on the left-hand column): http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/troopstoteachers/index.asp

(System requirements: You must have Windows 2000 or above to view the 10-minute video. For the PSA, you must have Windows 2000 or above PLUS the latest version of the QuickTime video player.)

NFL players sponsor cost of SAT/ACT prep programs for military

The National Football League players have donated the SAT/ACT Standard Power Prep program(s) to Service members and their families, for only the shipping and handling costs (\$9.95). The SAT/ACT Standard Power Prep programs normally cost \$199.

The programs are now available as a DVD or CD-ROM set and are ordered online and sent directly to the member.

For the second consecutive year, the players, represented by the Victory Sports Group (VSG), have

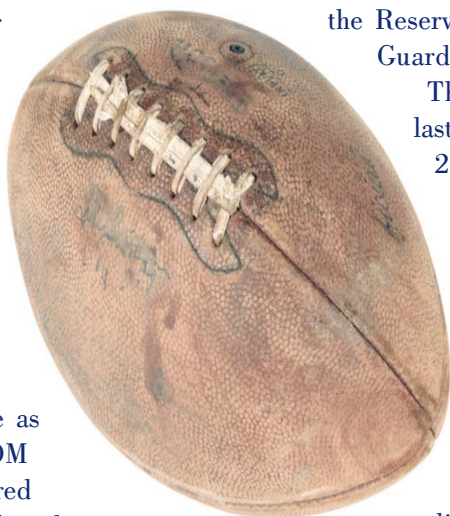
sponsored the entire retail cost of these programs to all military families (all active and retired members of the military, including the Reserves and National Guard)

The sponsorship will last through July 1, 2007.

The program includes 11+ hours of instructor-led video, 40+ hours of class work, hundreds of practice questions, progress quizzes, and electronic outlines.

For more information, visit

<http://sat.eknowledge.com/military.asp>.



YEARS AGO

Thirty years ago at DANTES:

- The largest single testing program was the CLEP General Exam program - 142,625 exams were administered.
- The average cost for DSST's was \$2.72 and GED tests were \$3.77.
- At the DANTES Policy Council meeting in Washington, D.C., the Council observed a demonstration of a visual cassette player.

DANTES

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